III. *Part of a Letter from Mr.* Witſen, *Burgermaſter of* Amſterdam, *and F. R. S. to Dr.* Martin Liſter, *fellow of the Colledge of Phyſicians, and R. S. concerning ſome late Obſervations in* Nova Hollandia.

HEre is returned a Ship, which by our *Eaſt-India* Company, was ſent to the South Land, called, *Hollandia Nova.* The Maſter hath brought me Two Shells from that Country, hitherto not ſufficiently known, which he found on the Sea ſide, and I make bold to ſend you the Draught of them, the Shells themſelves being twice as long and broad as the Draught, and indeed I could not beſtow them better, than to one who hath the beſt Knowledge of theſe, and all other Sea Products.

On this Voyage nothing hath been diſcovered which can be any way ſerviceable to the Company. The Soil of this Country hath been found very barren, and as a Deſart; no Freſh-water Rivers have been found, but ſome Salt-water Rivers, as alſo no Four-footed Beaſts, except one as great as a Dog, with long Ears, living in the Water as well as on the Land.

Black Swans, Parrots, and many Sea-Cows were found there; as alſo a Lake, whoſe Water ſeemed to be Red, becauſe of the Redneſs of the Bottom of it: and round along the Shore there was ſome Salt. Our People had ſeen but Twelve of the Natives, all as black as Pitch, and ſtark naked, ſo terrified, that it was impoſſible to bring them to Converſation, or a Meeting: They lodge themſelves as the Hottentots, in Pavilions of ſmall Bran-

ches of Trees. By Night our People ſaw Fires all over the Country; but when they drew near, the Natives were fled. The Coaſt is very low, but the Country far from the Sea is high.

Upon the Iſland near the Coaſt have been ſeen Rats as great as Cats, in an innumerable Quantity; all which had a kind of a Bag or Purſe hanging from the Throat upon the Breaſt downwards. There were found many well-ſmelling Trees, and out of their Wood is to be drawn Oyl ſmelling as a Roſe, but for the reſt they are ſmall and miſerable Trees. There were alſo found ſome Birds neſts of a prodigious greatneſs, ſo that Six Men could not, by ſtretching out their Arms, encompaſs One of them; but the Fowls were not to be found.

There was great Store of Oyſters, Lobſters, and Crabs; as alſo of ſtrange ſorts of Fiſh.

There were alſo Millions of Flies, very much troubling Men. They ſaw a great many Footſteps of Men and Children, but all of an ordinary bigneſs. The Coaſt is very foul and full of Rocks.

The Subject of this Voyage was to get Intelligence of a Ship having on board Sir *James Couper*, with Three Hundred Men, which we thought to be ſtranded there; but ſince we have underſtood that the ſaid Ship hath been taken by ſome Pirates near *Madagaſcar*, and that the ſaid Sir *James* was by them killed.

Amſt. 3 *Oct.* 1698.

The Two Shells herein mentioned, are Printed in my Synopſis Conchyliorum, *the one is the* 1ſt Nautilus, *the other the* Concha Perſica clavicula radiata.

IV. *Some*